

CONTACT: TOM JENSEN 919-744-6312

Corker in some danger of being primaried

Raleigh, N.C. – It seems like the Tea Party is planning primary challenges to every Republican and his brother next year. Among them may be Tennessee Senator Bob Corker. But while Corker is hypothetically vulnerable on his right, two potential named opponents get blown out of the water at this early stage.

43% of the state's GOP primary voters say they would support a generic "more conservative challenger" to Corker in next year's primary. 38% stick with Corker. Except with the 45% plurality who say they are very conservative, Corker easily beats this unnamed foe, but the farthest right favor the conservative by a 66-24 margin.

This desire is probably less an indictment of Corker than a fervor for hard-line purity by the fringe of the base; they would favor anyone who is "more conservative" if they had a choice. In fact, Corker's job approval rating is actually higher with conservatives than with moderates or the miniscule group who claim they are liberal. 23% do think Corker too liberal, but 55% say his ideology is "about right." Compare that to South Carolina's Lindsey Graham, with whom voters do have an ideological problem; 42% of his state's Republicans see him as too liberal.

As such, Corker beats both real candidates matched up with him: Rep. Marsha Blackburn, 50-30, and country star Hank Williams, Jr., 66-13. Williams has mentioned a desire to run for the Senate in the past. Blackburn ties Corker at 39% with the rightmost voters, but he trounces her with everyone else, and beats Williams overwhelmingly across the board.

"There is some desire among Tennessee Republicans to replace Corker with someone further to the right," said Dean Debnam, President of Public Policy Polling. "But the question becomes whether anyone viable will actually challenge Corker, and whether that challenge will be well funded."

In the race for the White House, Mike Huckabee has a sound 31-17 lead over Sarah Palin, with Mitt Romney and Newt Gingrich back at 11% apiece, Ron Paul with 10%, Tim Pawlenty and Mitch Daniels with 3% each, and John Thune with 1%. The "third-place candidate" is someone else/undecided, with 14%.

PPP surveyed 400 usual Tennessee Republican primary voters from February 9th to 13th. The survey's margin of error is +/-4.9%. Other factors, such as refusal to be interviewed and weighting, may introduce additional error that is more difficult to quantify.

[Complete results are attached, and can be found at www.publicpolicypolling.com.](http://www.publicpolicypolling.com)



Tennessee Survey Results

Q1 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Newt Gingrich?

Favorable..... 52%
Unfavorable 28%
Not sure 20%

Q2 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Mike Huckabee?

Favorable..... 74%
Unfavorable 13%
Not sure 13%

Q3 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Sarah Palin?

Favorable..... 67%
Unfavorable 23%
Not sure 11%

Q4 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Mitt Romney?

Favorable..... 47%
Unfavorable 30%
Not sure 23%

Q5 Do you approve or disapprove of Senator Bob Corker's job performance?

Approve 60%
Disapprove..... 19%
Not sure 20%

Q6 If the Republican candidates for President in 2012 were Mitch Daniels, Newt Gingrich, Mike Huckabee, Sarah Palin, Ron Paul, Tim Pawlenty, Mitt Romney, and John Thune who would you vote for?

Mitch Daniels 3%
Newt Gingrich 11%
Mike Huckabee 31%
Sarah Palin 17%
Ron Paul..... 10%
Tim Pawlenty 3%
Mitt Romney..... 11%
John Thune..... 1%
Someone else/Undecided..... 14%

Q7 Do you think Bob Corker is too liberal, too conservative, or about right?

Too liberal 23%
Too conservative..... 9%
About right 55%
Not sure 13%

Q8 If the Republican primary for Senate next year was between Bob Corker and a more conservative challenger, who would you vote for?

Bob Corker..... 38%
More conservative challenger 43%
Not sure 19%

Q9 If the Republican candidates for Senate next year were Bob Corker and Hank Williams Jr., who would you vote for?

Bob Corker..... 66%
Hank Williams, Jr. 13%
Undecided..... 21%





Q10 If the Republican candidates for Senate next year were Bob Corker and Marsha Blackburn, who would you vote for?

Bob Corker..... 50%
Marsha Blackburn..... 30%
Undecided..... 20%

Q11 Would you describe yourself as very liberal, somewhat liberal, moderate, somewhat conservative, or very conservative?

Very liberal..... 1%
Somewhat liberal 4%
Moderate..... 18%
Somewhat conservative..... 32%
Very conservative 45%

Q12 If you are a woman, press 1. If a man, press 2.

Woman 50%
Man..... 50%

Q13 If you are 18 to 29 years old, press 1. If 30 to 45, press 2. If 46 to 65, press 3. If you are older than 65, press 4.

18 to 29..... 10%
30 to 45..... 30%
46 to 65..... 35%
Older than 65..... 25%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Gingrich Favorability						
Favorable	52%	43%	11%	24%	51%	68%
Unfavorable	28%	44%	69%	53%	30%	13%
Not sure	20%	13%	20%	23%	19%	19%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Huckabee Favorability						
Favorable	74%	70%	37%	52%	80%	81%
Unfavorable	13%	18%	35%	26%	8%	8%
Not sure	13%	12%	28%	22%	11%	11%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Palin Favorability						
Favorable	67%	50%	76%	42%	62%	80%
Unfavorable	23%	39%	11%	44%	24%	14%
Not sure	11%	12%	13%	15%	14%	6%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Romney Favorability						
Favorable	47%	50%	6%	41%	53%	49%
Unfavorable	30%	39%	53%	31%	24%	32%
Not sure	23%	12%	41%	28%	23%	19%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Corker Approval						
Approve	60%	70%	29%	47%	68%	63%
Disapprove	19%	-	37%	29%	14%	18%
Not sure	20%	30%	34%	23%	18%	19%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
2012 GOP Pres Primary						
Mitch Daniels	3%	-	6%	7%	3%	1%
Newt Gingrich	11%	-	17%	4%	8%	16%
Mike Huckabee	31%	39%	35%	27%	37%	28%
Sarah Palin	17%	50%	31%	20%	13%	16%
Ron Paul	10%	-	-	11%	9%	11%
Tim Pawlenty	3%	-	-	-	4%	3%
Mitt Romney	11%	12%	-	14%	12%	10%
John Thune	1%	-	-	-	-	1%
Someone else/Undecided	14%	-	10%	17%	13%	13%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Corker Ideology						
Too liberal	23%	50%	40%	10%	15%	32%
Too conservative	9%	-	11%	20%	7%	6%
About right	55%	50%	19%	49%	67%	51%
Not sure	13%	-	29%	21%	11%	11%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Corker vs. Con Challenger						
Bob Corker	38%	44%	60%	52%	46%	24%
More conservative challenger	43%	38%	13%	25%	32%	62%
Not sure	19%	18%	27%	24%	23%	14%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Corker/Hank Jr.						
Bob Corker	66%	32%	60%	64%	73%	63%
Hank Williams, Jr.	13%	12%	27%	16%	9%	14%
Undecided	21%	56%	13%	20%	17%	23%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Corker/Blackburn						
Bob Corker	50%	44%	69%	57%	61%	39%
Marsha Blackburn	30%	-	20%	22%	24%	39%
Undecided	20%	56%	11%	21%	15%	23%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Gingrich Favorability			
Favorable	52%	48%	56%
Unfavorable	28%	27%	29%
Not sure	20%	26%	14%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Huckabee Favorability			
Favorable	74%	74%	74%
Unfavorable	13%	10%	15%
Not sure	13%	16%	11%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Palin Favorability			
Favorable	67%	71%	63%
Unfavorable	23%	20%	25%
Not sure	11%	9%	12%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Romney Favorability			
Favorable	47%	49%	46%
Unfavorable	30%	26%	35%
Not sure	23%	26%	20%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Corker Approval			
Approve	60%	60%	61%
Disapprove	19%	16%	23%
Not sure	20%	24%	16%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
2012 GOP Pres Primary			
Mitch Daniels	3%	2%	4%
Newt Gingrich	11%	8%	15%
Mike Huckabee	31%	33%	29%
Sarah Palin	17%	19%	14%
Ron Paul	10%	4%	16%
Tim Pawlenty	3%	4%	1%
Mitt Romney	11%	12%	10%
John Thune	1%	-	1%
Someone else/Undecided	14%	18%	9%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Corker Ideology			
Too liberal	23%	20%	26%
Too conservative	9%	6%	12%
About right	55%	54%	55%
Not sure	13%	20%	7%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Corker vs. Con Challenger			
Bob Corker	38%	35%	40%
More conservative challenger	43%	41%	46%
Not sure	19%	24%	14%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Corker/Hank Jr.			
Bob Corker	66%	67%	65%
Hank Williams, Jr.	13%	10%	17%
Undecided	21%	23%	19%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Corker/Blackburn			
Bob Corker	50%	50%	51%
Marsha Blackburn	30%	27%	32%
Undecided	20%	23%	17%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Gingrich Favorability					
Favorable	52%	56%	42%	56%	58%
Unfavorable	28%	39%	34%	23%	24%
Not sure	20%	6%	25%	21%	18%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Huckabee Favorability					
Favorable	74%	72%	75%	73%	75%
Unfavorable	13%	22%	10%	11%	14%
Not sure	13%	6%	15%	16%	11%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Palin Favorability					
Favorable	67%	56%	60%	69%	75%
Unfavorable	23%	28%	28%	22%	15%
Not sure	11%	17%	12%	8%	9%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Romney Favorability					
Favorable	47%	44%	39%	50%	54%
Unfavorable	30%	44%	31%	27%	29%
Not sure	23%	11%	31%	23%	17%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Corker Approval					
Approve	60%	56%	60%	56%	68%
Disapprove	19%	28%	18%	22%	14%
Not sure	20%	17%	22%	22%	17%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
2012 GOP Pres Primary					
Mitch Daniels	3%	6%	1%	4%	3%
Newt Gingrich	11%	11%	7%	11%	16%
Mike Huckabee	31%	28%	43%	26%	26%
Sarah Palin	17%	22%	16%	17%	14%
Ron Paul	10%	17%	15%	8%	5%
Tim Pawlenty	3%	-	2%	4%	3%
Mitt Romney	11%	17%	7%	9%	17%
John Thune	1%	-	-	1%	1%
Someone else/Undecided	14%	-	10%	20%	14%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Corker Ideology					
Too liberal	23%	35%	25%	25%	14%
Too conservative	9%	6%	7%	10%	11%
About right	55%	47%	52%	51%	64%
Not sure	13%	12%	16%	14%	11%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Corker vs. Con Challenger					
Bob Corker	38%	61%	28%	31%	49%
More conservative challenger	43%	33%	52%	43%	38%
Not sure	19%	6%	20%	26%	14%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Corker/Hank Jr.					
Bob Corker	66%	61%	58%	63%	81%
Hank Williams, Jr.	13%	11%	20%	14%	6%
Undecided	21%	28%	22%	23%	13%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Corker/Blackburn					
Bob Corker	50%	50%	54%	42%	57%
Marsha Blackburn	30%	33%	26%	33%	28%
Undecided	20%	17%	20%	24%	15%

